

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:FGERLACH

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 045721

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 3505 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
JIDDA MOGADISCIO MOSCOW PRAGUE SANA DTD 28 FEB

QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 3505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO YS EG

SUBJ: FAHMY ON PDRY AND SOMALIA

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY ON FEBRUARY 26, HE
ALLUDED TO CZECH FONMIN'S RECENT VISIT TO EGYPT (CAIRO 2951).
CZECH, WHO HAD JUST SPENT FOUR DAYS EACH IN SOMALIA
AND PDRY, EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION THAT BOTH OF
THESE COUNTRIES HAVE STRONG "PROGRESSIVE," SOCIALIST
GOVERNMENTS.

2. CZECH FONMIN'S DISCUSSION PROMPTED FAHMY COMMENT
THAT BOTH PDRY AND SOMALIA MUST BE CONSIDERED TO BE FIRMLY
IN COMMUNIST CAMP. I REMINDED HIM OF CONCERN WE HAD
EXPRESSED LAST YEAR ABOUT SOVIET NAVAL BASE IN BERBERA.
RE PDRY, I RECALLED THAT A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO BOTH

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PRESIDENT SADAT AND HE AHD TOLD US OF GOE EFFORTS, IN
CONJUNCTION WITH SAUDIS, TO STRENGTHEN PDRY PRESIDENT
RUBAYY 'ALI AGAINST HIS RIVAL ABDUL FATAH ISMAIL.
AT THE TIME BOTH SADAT AND HE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT
RUBAYY 'ALI WAS MODERATE AND ANXIOUS TO CURB HIS
STRONGLY PRO-SOVIET RIVAL. I RECALLED SAUDIS HAVE IN
FACT ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PDRY.

HAD EGYPTIAN ESTIMATE CHANGED?

3. FAHMY CLAIMED THAT THE REPORTS OF THE EGYPTIAN AMABASSADOR IN ADEN MAKE IT CLEAR THAT RUBAYY 'ALI ABDUL FATAH ISMAIL SPLIT IS MAINLY A TACTICAL MATTER. EACH IS VYING FOR POWER, BUT BOTH ARE AND WANT TO REMAIN IN THE "COMMUNIST CAMP". FAHMY CLAIMED IT HAD BEEN MAINLY SAUDIS, NOT EGYPTIANS, WHO HAD ARGUED FOR SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH PDRY. ASKED IF SADAT NOW ALSO ACCEPTS ABOVE ESTIMATE, FAHMY SAID YES. IN SAUDI ARABIA, HE NOTED, PRINCE FAHD AND PRINCE SULTAN REMAIN AT ODDS ABOUT SAUDI POLICY TOWARD THE PDRY. SULTAN SHARES THE CURRENT GOE VIEW THAT THERE IS NO ESSENIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RUBAYY 'ALI AND ABDUL FATAH ISMAIL AND CONTINUES TO BE SKEPTICAL OF CURRENT SAG POLICY TOWARD PDRY.

4. I RECALLED FAHMY HAD SPOKEN TO US SLIGHTLY OVER A YEAR AGO RE DESIRABILITY REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PDRY AND ASKED FOR HIS CURRENT ATTITUDE. FAHMY EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT WE HAVE NOT YET REESTABLISHED AN EMBASSY IN ADEN. GIVEN HEAVY SOVIET AND EASTERN BLOC PRESENCE IN PDRY, HE URGED THAT WE DO SO ASAP. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ACTIVITIES IN ADEN MIGHT BE CIRCUMSCRIBED, HE OPINED SUCH AN OFFICE IS DESIREABLE TO ENABLE US TO "WATCH" SOVIET AND EASTERN BLOC ACTIVITIES. ANY SUCH OFFICE, HE SUGGESTED, SHOULD HAVE STRONG INTELLIGENCE COMPONENT. EILTS UNQTE VANCE

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